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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I now move that the Madras Services Commission Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members :— 3-45 p.m.

1. The hon. the Chief Minister.
2. Mr. A. Balakrishna Shetty.
3. ,, Muhammad Schamnad Sahib.
4. ,, V. I Muniswami Pillai.
5. Diwan Bahahur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
6. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
7. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
8. ,, K. P. Raman Menon.
9. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
10. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
11. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
12. ,, K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
13. ,, Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
14. ,, R. Foulkes.
15. ,, Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar (Advocate-General).
16. The Mover (The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks)."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

The motion was put to the House and carried.

VI

A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE MADRAS CITY POLICE ACT, 1888.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I beg to introduce the Bill [a] further to amend the Madras City Police Act, 1888 (Bill No. 4 of 1929), and move that it be referred to a Select Committee.

" In doing so, I wish to state that in 1925 it was brought to the notice of the Government that a number of bucket shops had come into existence in the City of Madras and it was suggested that legislation should be brought forward by the Government to put them down. Government in 1926 appointed a committee consisting of Mr. P. L. Moore (Chairman), Mr. H. F. Travers Philips, Major H. A. Hilderbrand, Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar and Mr. C. Gopala Menon. This Committee went into the question and reported that we should legislate for the suppression of these bucket shops and they also stated that the legislation should be confined to the City of Madras. The Government accepted their recommendations and took steps to have the Madras City Police Act amended.

" Certain objections have been raised saying that this Bill may not be very effective because there will be concentration of bucket shops on the borders of the City. I should like to bring to the notice of this House that if they should be successful, they would require a large number of people ready to bet with small sums of money and there should also be proper facilities for people to have easy access to these bucket shops. So if they are located outside the city limits they will not thrive. With regard to the

[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 22nd January 1929.

question of legislating for the mufassal places, I may say that Government which accepted the views of the Moore Committee think that there is no necessity. If after gaining experience of the working of this Act, the Government find that there is a necessity to legislate for the mufassal places also they will then consider the question."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I second it."

Mr. C. E. Wood :—" I beg to move that the Select Committee proposed by the hon. the Home Member shall contain also . . ."

The hon. the President :—" The question now is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. Who shall be the Members, what shall be the number, all these will be disposed of when this motion is disposed of."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" I rise to thank the hon. the Home Member for having at least brought this Bill for introduction at this late stage. The evil of gambling and betting in the city of Madras has gone so extensive that no single family perhaps has escaped from the ravages of the betting evil. The hon. the Home Member has said that the evil has not spread so far in the mufassal as to necessitate legislation there. It seems to me that the reports he received must have been very inaccurate. From the information we have we think that the evil has spread far and wide in this Presidency. It does not require a race club for a bucket shop to spring up. These bucket shops come into existence promiscuously. It took nearly three years for the Government to move this Bill in the Legislative Council in spite of insistence from the non-official Members for the introduction of a Bill of this nature. I am glad that at least now the Government have introduced this Bill, but we find that the provisions of the Bill, though the object seems to be laudable, leave a loop-hole to the Commissioner of Police to grant licences to some places where betting might be carried on. It seems to me that licences ought not to be permitted to be given to any place. We do hope that after the passing of this Bill the evil of betting in the city of Madras will be greatly obviated. I have great pleasure in supporting this motion."

* Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" While supporting the provisions of this measure in general, I hope that the Select Committee and also the Government will take into consideration some suggestions which I shall presently put forward. We have not got in this Presidency any law generally to regulate race course activities of the kind we have in Bombay and England. Bombay Race Course Act III of 1912 was passed on the lines of the English Act. That Act, the Totalisators Act is a very important measure to check bettings in the race course. Unless we have got some law like that passed in Bombay I think betting will only be accentuated in the Guindy race course.

" What happened in Bombay was this : after the Licensing Act was passed, bucket shops increased in the city, and the Bombay Government brought in a measure in 1919 and 1922 to suppress those bucket shops on the basis of which our present Bill is introduced. Until and unless we have got a law to control betting at the race course at Guindy and other places, the object of this Bill will be to a great extent defeated.

" Another point that I wish to mention is that the provisions of the Bill will be confined to the City limits only. Bucket shops can be set up just

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outside the city limits. That would be a very easy thing. This Bill when passed must have jurisdiction for some distance. We have got provisions in the District Municipalities Act preventing the existence of slaughter houses even beyond the limits of the municipalities, for instance within three miles from the town limit. I would propose that there should be a similar provision in this Bill also."

* Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja :—" I heartily congratulate the hon. the Home Member for bringing in this Bill. It is none too soon. As we all know gambling is ruining very many people in this city and also in mufassal and this legislation seems to be very necessary and Sir, we all know that life is a huge gamble and the element of chance appeals to all much more than anything else. There are some people who take advantage of this cupidity and also ignorance of the masses and try to ruin them. Therefore I say it is not only timely but it is imperative that this sort of exploitation should cease. The only thing that I wish to remark is that the Bill is not comprehensive enough to cover even the mufassal towns. It was stated that there was not much betting in the mufassal towns. I may bring it to the notice of this House that there are one or two bucket shops even in Trichinopoly and it is likely that it may extend to other places around Trichinopoly also. I have great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in joining the leader of my party in congratulating the hon. the Home Member for introducing this useful piece of legislation though late. 4 p.m. Better late than never. This piece of legislation is long overdue. The city was simply getting looted practically by the encouragement of this gambling. The bucket shops have been rising like mushrooms in every house. . ."

* The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member is not discussing the principles of the Bill."

* Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" I am supporting the Bill. . ."

The hon. the President :—" Even while supporting the Bill, the hon. Member has to speak about the principles of the Bill."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" I would like to draw the attention of the Government that it is desirable to extend the provisions of the Bill to the outskirts of the city also. If not, the Bill would not be of any use at all, for it will simply be driving the devil to a wider range and to a more salubrious atmosphere on the outskirts of the city. The bucket shops have already come into existence in Saidapet and Sembiam and they are doing great havoc there. So, I would suggest that the provisions of this Bill should be extended to the outskirts of the city if the Bill is to have any effect at all."

* Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—" Sir, on a point of order. From the reading of the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I find that the object is the suppression of bucket shops. I read ' Sir, the committee was of opinion that more control of bucket shops. . . ' "

* The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member will simply mention the point of order."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" Sir, I state it for what it is worth. The Bill aims at the suppression of bucket shops which is sought to be done by affecting many of the personal rights and liberties of individuals. The local Government is only entitled to regulate gambling and betting. But the Bill seeks to affect Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law. I think it is not within the purview of the Legislative Council. Since the hon. Member has not obtained the sanction of the Governor-General. . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I understand the point of order. The hon. Member says that this law will affect Criminal Law. Though the Bill is confined to the matter of regulating betting and gambling, it requires the sanction of the Governor-General as it affects Criminal Law. I would request the hon. Member to study the Devolution Rules which clearly lay down that Criminal Law can be affected so far as it concerns Provincial Subjects. The hon. Member himself has stated that betting and gambling are Provincial Subjects. I see no point of order."

Diwan Bahadur G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the hon. the Home Member for bringing forward this piece of legislation. I think there is some difference of opinion whether the provisions of the Bill should be extended to the districts also. I do not think it can be done under the present Bill as it seeks to amend only the Madras City Police Act. The measure is a very beneficial one. The practical working of the Act will show us whether it may be extended to the districts also. I am very glad that the Government of Madras have introduced this Bill. I heartily congratulate the hon. the Home Member for bringing forward this Bill."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

The motion was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It will be convenient for the House to dispose of the amendment of Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed to refer the Bill to a Select Committee of more than 15 members."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" Sir, I beg leave to ask that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of more than 15 members."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" I second it."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Sir, I do not think this motion is necessary. I have proposed my Committee after consulting all the party leaders."

The motion was put and lost

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Sir, the names of the members of the Select Committee will be moved to-morrow. I request your permission to do so."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has got the right to move the names to-morrow. No permission is necessary."